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## COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CENTER



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January 15, 1966

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

## INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS

NASSAU COUNTY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

Between September and December 1965, there were 90 confirmed cases of infectious hepatitis in the Elmont-North Valley Stream area of Nassau County, Long Island, New York. The distribution of cases in time, by date of onset, is shown in Figure 1. There is a sharply rising and falling curve with most of the cases occurring between the middle of October and the middle of November over a period of approximately 5 weeks. In Table 1 the age and sex distributions of cases are listed. Although a predominance of the cases was among teen-agers, there was an unusual occurrence among adults. Twenty of the 90 cases were 40 years of age and older.

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The clustering of cases over a short period of time and the adult age distribution of cases both strongly suggested a common-source exposure. The water supply to the area where the cases lived was common to other more extensive areas in which cases of infectious hepatitis were not known to have occurred during the epidemic period. Twenty different dairies were named by patients

(Continued on page 10)

**CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES**  
(Cumulative totals include revised and delayed reports through previous weeks)

DISEASE	2nd WEEK ENDED		MEDIAN 1961-1965	CUMULATIVE, FIRST 2 WEEKS		
	JANUARY 15, 1966	JANUARY 16, 1965		1966	1965	MEDIAN 1961-1965
Aseptic meningitis . . . . .	41	30	30	71	72	47
Brucellosis . . . . .	4	2	4	4	10	10
Diphtheria . . . . .	2	6	9	3	9	12
Encephalitis, primary:						
Arthropod-born & unspecified . . . . .	24	37	—	43	70	—
Encephalitis, post-infectious . . . . .	15	19	—	24	24	—
Hepatitis, serum . . . . .	22	795	1,093	32	1,483	1,784
Hepatitis, infectious . . . . .	695	6,746	7,589	1,361	11,949	12,497
Measles (rubeola) . . . . .	5,544	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis, Total (including unspecified)	—	—	—	1	—	7
Paralytic . . . . .	—	—	4	—	—	6
Nonparalytic . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections, Total . . . . .	94	74	56	157	126	98
Civilian . . . . .	87	72	—	145	124	—
Military . . . . .	7	2	—	12	2	—
Rubella (German measles) . . . . .	930	—	—	1,326	—	—
Streptococcal sore throat & Scarlet fever . . . . .	9,405	9,974	8,457	16,766	18,654	15,544
Tetanus . . . . .	—	5	—	3	8	—
Tularemia . . . . .	4	9	—	8	15	—
Typhoid fever . . . . .	4	3	3	7	5	7
Typhus, tick-borne (Rky. Mt. Spotted fever) . . . . .	2	2	—	7	2	—
Rabies in Animals . . . . .	67	88	64	139	180	114

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OF LOW FREQUENCY

	Cum.		Cum.
Anthrax . . . . .	—	Botulism . . . . .	—
Leptospirosis . . . . .	—	Trichinosis: N. Y. Up-State-5, N.J.-1 . . . . .	10
Malaria: Pa. - 1, Va.-1, Oreg.-1 . . . . .	8	Rabies in Man . . . . .	—
Psittacosis: N.C.-1 . . . . .	3	Rubella, Congenital Syndrome: Pa.-1 . . . . .	1
Typhus, murine: . . . . .	—		

**INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS**  
**NASSAU COUNTY, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK**  
*(Continued from front page)*

as sources of milk supply, and raw shellfish were consumed by only 15 of the 90 patients in the 2 months preceding their respective illnesses. When the patients were questioned as to where they purchased cold cuts or freshly prepared salads within this time, they named nine various delicatessens and groceries. Of the 76 cases with dates of onset between October 13 and November 21, 66 (86.8 percent) had purchased these foods from one local delicatessen in the preceding 2 months. A control group of 94 households was randomly selected from the same neighborhoods as the cases. Fifteen of the 94 control families, or 16.0 percent, had patronized the suspect delicatessen within the preceding 2 months.

The delicatessen involved was a small, privately-owned store which was run by the owner and two employees. The owner of the store personally prepared the various salads, sliced the cold cuts and served customers from behind the counter. He had had an illness indistinguishable from infectious hepatitis on both clinical and laboratory grounds with onset sometime during the last week of September. However, he continued to work in the store through October 16 despite the occurrence of jaundice, documented on October 13, as shown in Figure 1. It seemed likely that contamination of food had occurred at this delicatessen, but no single food item was incriminated.

None of the five cases subsequent to November 21 had a history of purchases from this delicatessen, but all

Table 1  
 AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION FOR 90 CASES  
 OF INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS  
 Elmont-North Valley Stream Area, Nassau County, New York  
 September-December 1965

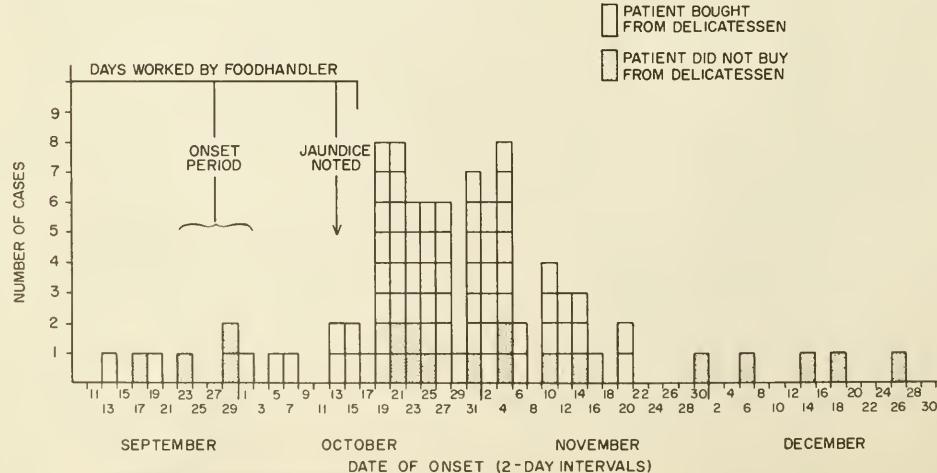
Age	Male	Female	Total
0-4 . . . . .	—	—	—
5-9 . . . . .	6	2	8
10-14 . . . . .	8	12	20
15-19 . . . . .	11	9	20
20-24 . . . . .	7	—	7
25-29 . . . . .	2	1	3
30-34 . . . . .	3	2	5
35-39 . . . . .	5	2	7
40-44 . . . . .	4	8	12
45+ . . . . .	7	1	8
Total . . . . .	53	37	90

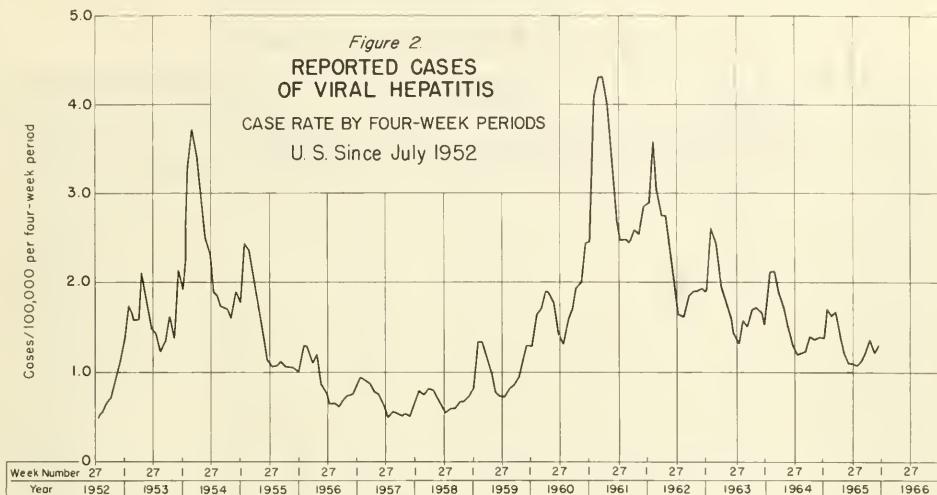
of the five gave a history of personal contact with a previous known case.

(Reported by Dr. I. Jackson Tartakow, Deputy Commissioner, Nassau County Health Department, Mineola Long Island, New York; Dr. Julia Freitag, Acting Director, Office of Epidemiology, New York State Department of Health, Albany, New York; and an EIS Officer.)

*Figure 1.*

**DATES OF ONSET OF 90 CASES OF INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS**  
**ELMONT-NORTH VALLEY STREAM AREA, NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK**  
 SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 1965





#### SUMMARY OF REPORTED CASES OF INFECTIOUS SYPHILIS

DECEMBER 1965 AND DECEMBER 1964

CASES OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SYPHILIS: By Reporting Areas December 1964 and December 1965 - Provisional Data

Reporting Area	December		Cumulative Jan. - Dec.		Reporting Area	December		Cumulative Jan. - Dec.	
	1965	1964	1965	1964		1965	1964	1965	1964
NEW ENGLAND.....	41	42	480	483	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL.....	196	171	2,676	1,922
Maine.....	-	2	2	7	Kentucky.....	12	20	138	178
New Hampshire.....	1	1	28	10	Tennessee.....	33	38	504	479
Vermont.....	-	-	4	3	Alabama.....	99	78	1,421	902
Massachusetts.....	33	21	302	284	Mississippi.....	52	35	613	363
Rhode Island.....	-	1	21	19	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL.....	188	182	2,331	2,599
Connecticut.....	7	17	123	160	Arkansas.....	4	22	202	227
MIDDLE ATLANTIC.....	467	470	4,901	5,428	Louisiana.....	54	55	660	734
Upstate New York.....	43	42	549	632	Oklahoma.....	10	16	111	150
New York City.....	295	299	2,853	3,165	Texas.....	120	89	1,358	1,488
Pa. (Excl. Phila.).....	18	16	189	182	MOUNTAIN.....	41	35	545	539
Philadelphia.....	59	22	365	309	Montana.....	3	1	22	32
New Jersey.....	52	91	945	1,140	Idaho.....	-	1	9	8
					Wyoming.....	-	-	9	8
EAST NORTH CENTRAL.....	277	249	3,036	2,474	Colorado.....	6	2	51	35
Ohio.....	64	58	648	584	New Mexico.....	6	10	112	180
Indiana.....	14	5	63	70	Arizona.....	21	14	266	223
Downstate Illinois.....	12	22	199	161	Utah.....	4	1	21	14
Chicago.....	92	103	1,186	974	Nevada.....	1	6	55	39
Michigan.....	92	58	862	622	PACIFIC.....	179	178	2,031	2,213
Wisconsin.....	3	3	78	63	Washington.....	6	2	69	73
					Oregon.....	11	5	49	73
WEST NORTH CENTRAL.....	45	44	550	550	California.....	160	167	1,873	2,039
Minnesota.....	4	9	90	124	Alaska.....	1	-	8	9
Iowa.....	6	4	49	37	Hawaii.....	1	4	32	19
Missouri.....	25	19	248	252					
North Dakota.....	-	-	2	-	U. S. TOTAL.....	1,937	1,814	23,290	22,969
South Dakota.....	1	5	39	53					
Nebraska.....	5	4	86	56	TERRITORIES.....	85	73	889	878
Kansas.....	4	3	36	28	Puerto Rico.....	85	71	865	849
SOUTH ATLANTIC.....	503	443	6,740	6,761	Virgin Islands.....	-	2	24	29
Delaware.....	5	3	56	84					
Maryland.....	42	38	489	514					
District of Columbia.....	47	36	493	693					
Virginia.....	33	20	327	299					
West Virginia.....	12	8	107	59					
North Carolina.....	66	77	1,004	1,109					
South Carolina.....	79	58	851	860					
Georgia.....	61	83	1,057	1,139					
Florida.....	158	120	2,356	2,004					

**Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report**

CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES  
FOR WEEKS ENDED  
JANUARY 15, 1966 AND JANUARY 16, 1965 (2nd WEEK)

CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES  
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JANUARY 15, 1966 AND JANUARY 16, 1965 (2nd WEEK) - Contin

**CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES  
FOR WEEKS ENDED**

JANUARY 15, 1966 AND JANUARY 16, 1965 (2nd WEEK) - Continued

Table 4. DEATHS IN 122 UNITED STATES CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED JANUARY 15, 1960

2

(By place of occurrence and week of filing certificate. Excludes fetal deaths)

\*Estimate - based on average percent of divisional total.

## HEPATITIS SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

The total cases and the reported incidence of viral hepatitis in the United States in the first two quarters of the epidemiological year 1965-66\* are the lowest reported since 1959-60. The continuing decline in incidence since the 1960-61 peak year is evident in Figure 2, page 11.

There were 7,361 cases of viral hepatitis reported in the U.S. during the summer quarter and 8,150 cases reported during the fall quarter of the epidemiological year 1965-66. This represents rates of 3.8 and 4.2 cases per 100,000 population for these two quarters, respectively (Table 2).

(Reported by the Hepatitis Surveillance Unit, CDC.)

\*Hepatitis morbidity data are summarized in terms of an "epidemiological year," which runs from the 27th week of each year through the 26th week of the succeeding year.

Table 2  
A. NUMBER OF REPORTED CASES OF VIRAL  
HEPATITIS PER QUARTER

Epidemiological year	Summer quarter	Fall quarter	Winter quarter	Spring quarter	Total year
1958-59 . . . . .	3,403	4,028	7,169	4,902	19,502
1959-60 . . . . .	4,700	6,026	9,793	9,917	30,436
1960-61 . . . . .	8,940	12,403	23,096	19,598	65,267
1961-62 . . . . .	14,229	15,580	17,995	18,533	61,337
1962-63 . . . . .	10,272	11,330	13,848	9,864	45,314
1963-64 . . . . .	8,969	10,250	12,118	9,320	40,657
1964-65 . . . . .	7,581	8,597	10,311	7,876	34,365
1965-66 . . . . .	7,361	8,150	.....	.....	.....

B. REPORTED CASES OF VIRAL HEPATITIS PER  
100,000 POPULATION PER QUARTER

1958-59 . . . . .	2.0	2.3	4.0	2.8	11.1
1959-60 . . . . .	2.7	3.4	5.5	5.5	17.1
1960-61 . . . . .	5.0	6.9	12.8	11.1	35.8
1961-62 . . . . .	7.9	8.7	9.8	7.4	33.8
1962-63 . . . . .	5.6	6.2	7.4	5.3	24.5
1963-64 . . . . .	4.8	5.4	6.4	4.9	21.6
1964-65 . . . . .	4.0	4.5	5.3	4.2	18.0
1965-66 . . . . .	3.8	4.2	.....	.....	.....

ERRATUM, Vol. 14, No. 52, p. 444.

Current Trends - Poliomyelitis

The isolation of virus from the case in Michigan should read "Type III poliovirus and Coxsackie virus Type A4 were also isolated from one specimen."

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THE EDITOR  
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NOTE: THE DATA IN THIS REPORT ARE PROVISIONAL AND ARE BASED ON WEEKLY REPORTS RECEIVED FROM THE INDIVIDUAL STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENTS. THE REPORTING WEEK CONCLUDES ON SATURDAY; COMPILED DATA ON A NATIONAL BASIS ARE RELEASED ON THE SUCCEEDING FRIDAY.

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